AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 17, 22, 32 and 34 as follows:

C1 1. (Amended) A polarizer formed by dyeing, crosslinking, stretching and drying a hydrophilic polymer film, wherein, when the polarizer is heated at 80°C for 30 minutes, the polarizer thereafter has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction.

C2 8. (Amended) A polarizing plate comprising

a polarizer, wherein, when the polarizer is heated at 80°C for 30 minutes, the polarizer thereafter has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction; and

a protective film laminated on at least one surface of the polarizer, wherein the polarizing plate satisfies a relationship of 0.01 A/B 0.16 where A denotes a thickness of the polarizer and B denotes a thickness of the protective film.

C3 17. (Amended) The polarizing plate according to claim 8 further comprising, at least one optical layer selected from a reflector, a transreflector, a retardation plate, a lambda plate, a viewing angle compensating film, and a brightness enhancement film.

C4 22. (Amended) A polarizer, wherein, when the polarizer is heated at 80°C for 30 minutes, the polarizer thereafter has a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction.

C5 32. (Amended) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a lambda plate.

C6 34. (Amended) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a brightness enhancement plate.

Please add new claims 36-47 as follows:

36. (New) A method for preparing a polarizer, comprising: dyeing, crosslinking, stretching

C7 and drying a hydrophilic polymer film,

wherein a thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the starting material is not more than 75 μm.

37. (New) The method for preparing a polarizer according to claim 36, wherein stretching of the film is conducted in water and subsequently, crosslinking of the film is conducted with a crosslinking agent.

38. (New) The method for preparing a polarizer according to claim 36, wherein stretching of the film is conducted in a traverse direction and subsequently in a longitudinal direction.

39. (New) The method for preparing a polarizer according to claim 36, further comprising: relaxing stress at least once after stretching the film, and further stretching.

40. (New) The method for preparing a polarizer according to claim 36, wherein the thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the starting material is not more than 60 μm.

41. (New) The method for preparing a polarizer according to claim 36, wherein the thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the starting material is from 20 to 50 μm.

42. (New) A polarizer formed by the method comprising: dyeing, crosslinking, stretching and drying a hydrophilic polymer film,

wherein a thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the strating material is not more than 75 μm.

43. (New) The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein stretching of the film is conducted in water and subsequently, crosslinking of the film is conducted with a crosslinking agent.

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44. (New) The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein stretching of the film is conducted in a traverse direction and subsequently in a longitudinal direction.

45. (New) The polarizer according to claim 42, further comprising: relaxing stress at least once after stretching the film, and further stretching.

46. (New) The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein the thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the starting material is not more than 60 μm.

47. (New) The polarizer according to claim 42, wherein the thickness of the hydrophilic polymer film for the starting material is from 20 to 50 μm.